



A quarterly newsletter of Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment Bureau of Waste Management Winter 2001

## hi kids!

In October, the State of Kansas moved about 1,000 employees, including everyone in the Bureau of Waste Management, to a new office building, the Signature Building in downtown Topeka. As you can imagine, moving 1,000 people and everything in their offices creates a lot of extra waste!

The packing process began with "Clean Your Files" days. Employees went through their

desks and filing cabinets, sorting through old papers. Unneeded and unusable papers and file folders were placed in boxes for recycling. Even though we in state government have been recycling in our offices for several years, we still found a lot that we didn't need and could recycle instead of pack! In fact, during the move, Hunter Recycling picked up 35,000 pounds of paper.

Reusable supplies, including notebooks, binders, paper clips, and other office supplies, were placed in boxes. Employees sent out e-mails to let others know

what was available. Other employees could e-mail back to request supplies or pick them up on a first-come, first-served basis. By doing this, we reduced the amount of waste related to the move AND saved taxpayers money on usable supplies!

As with any move, a new location means some new furniture. However, our old

furniture didn't go to waste either. Some of the furniture was left behind for use by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment's Laboratory staff, which will be taking over the building we vacated. Other furniture is being refurbished for use by various state agencies. What wasn't needed has been delivered to the state

surplus area, which is run by the Department of Corrections. After a waiting period, items in surplus are available for sale at minimal fees to businesses and citizens. These surplus items are available at a huge savings! What kind of things can be found at the surplus? It varies, but common items include cars, trucks, tools, desks, tables, industrial kitchen equipment, couches, chairs, clocks, measuring equipment, drafting tables,

computers, and much more!

So you can see, even while we were moving, we were working hard to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

## We've moved!

Our new address is:

Kansas Department
of Health & Environment
Bureau of Waste Management
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320
Topeka, KS 66612

Our phone and fax numbers and e-mail address stayed the same.





Hunter Recycling in Topeka started small in 1992, collecting recyclable paper from Blue Cross Blue Shield in eight borrowed bins and an old pickup truck. Today, Hunter Recycling collects recyclable paper from about 200 companies in the Topeka area. Hunter recycles about 150 tons of paper per month from these companies. Some of the profits from the business are donated to the United Way and projects that help beautify Topeka.

The basics of Hunter's paper recycling operation are simple. Office paper is placed in containers by the participating companies. A truck picks up the paper and delivers it to Hunter's warehouse. At the warehouse, the paper is shredded and bailed. The bails look something like

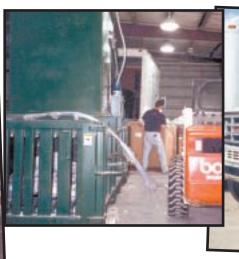
big hay bails. The bails are loaded onto a semi-

trailer and trucked to a paper mill. At the mill, the paper is turned into new products, such as tissue products or computer paper.

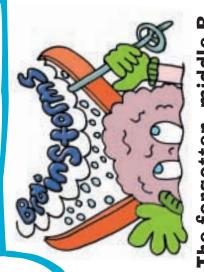
Hunter Recycling has been providing service to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) facility for the past eight years. To help with the move to the new building, Hunter placed extra bins at the KDHE facility in May. From May through October, about 35,000 pounds (or 17.5 tons) of paper were collected and recycled, saving almost 298 trees and 58 cubic yards of landfill space.

Hunter Recycling is proud to be making a difference for Kansas!









e attention. We hear

ing. But what about the tReuse? Reuse is a fort to create less night select things tha already have. Or, find new use or a new home for an old item the three R's get all th valuable tool in the ef Reduction and Recycli waste. To reuse, you r middle R? What abou mend something you will last a long time.`

disposables? Plan to reuse more tomorrow! ists. Could you have a For one day, make that you reused and t disposed. At the end



Funded by Kansas Department of Health & Environment, **Bureau of Waste** Management

## we want to hear from you!



**KDHE/Bureau of Waste Management/** Planning, Grants & Public Education Unit

1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320 Topeka, KS 66612 • 785-296-1600 E-mail: bcarreno@kdhe.state.ks.us Web: www.kdhe.state.ks.us